

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 1, 2015

Children's Gazette 2014



Juliette Shea, grade
5, Burgundy Farm
Country Day School

ATTENTION
POSTMASTER:
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MATERIAL
REQUESTED IN HOME
12/29/14

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PERMIT #482





Woodbridge **\$339,000**

Spacious townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths. Family room is adjacent updated kitchen. Extremely bright, high ceilings, plush carpets and gleaming hardwood floors. Deck off kitchen is perfect for entertaining. 2-car garage & great location. www.4879cavallo.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart

703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria **\$899,000**

Immaculate, sunny six-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath, renovated home with extensive woodwork, fireplace in family room and spacious sunroom. Luxurious master suite with marble bath and dressing room. Oversized lot and two-car garage.

Babs Beckwith

703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Alexandria **\$730,000**

Atop a knoll in a quiet, private cul-de-sac on 8,568-SF fenced lot. Lots of natural light and wood floors. two wood-burning fireplaces make the living and family rooms cozy on a cold night. Five bedrooms and three full bathrooms offer room to spread out!

Laurel Conger

703.577.6899
www.AlexandriaLiving.com



Alexandria **\$749,000**

Over 4,500 SF on three levels. In-law suite, gourmet kitchen, family room with gas fireplace, breakfast room, dining room. Master bedroom large master bath. Two-car garage! Walk to private schools, public school, Metro and shopping. Seller offering \$3,000 in closing cost credit.

Phyllis Sintay

703.472.3563
www.PSintay.com



Alexandria **\$790,000**

Desirable Villamay colonial boasts a large gourmet kitchen with high-end appliances and granite counters opening to family room with vaulted ceiling and huge fireplace. Sophisticated and stylish, this home is perfect for entertaining and gracious living. Walk to pool, tennis, and shopping.

Joan Shannon

703.507.8655
www.JoanHome.com



Alexandria **\$309,000**

This lovely 2-bedroom, 2-bath home is located a short distance to Metro & lots of shopping. Complete kitchen renovation with stainless & granite. Gleaming hardwoods on 2 floors. Renovated uppler level bath. Finished lower level with full bath. Large deck and a big yard.

Sandra Sperry

703.362.9099
www.SandraSperry.com



Old Town Alexandria
\$1,125,000

Potomac River views are enjoyed from this light-filled, three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath townhouse where tall ceilings, elegant finishes and numerous built-ins contribute to a gracious home with inviting formal rooms, deck accessed from the kitchen area and garage with additional covered parking.

Lauren Bishop

202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Old Town Alexandria
\$544,000

Beautiful hardwood floors, updated kitchen, custom bookshelves/cabinets. Cozy family room. Enclosed, ivy-walled back patio is great for summer nights with friends and family. Walk to restaurants a block away and enjoy the Mt Vernon Trail and Jones Point Park. Famous 11Y bus to DC in minutes. NO HOA FEE!

Betty Mallon

703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com



Old Town Alexandria
\$1,349,000

Completed new construction! Downsize to Old Town without really downsizing. Spectacular and stunning with 3,500-SF of designer living space. Enjoy the walkable lifestyle Old Town offers. Large fenced patio and garden. Two parking spaces. 403A N Alfred Street.

Susan Craft

703.216.4501
www.SusanCraft.com

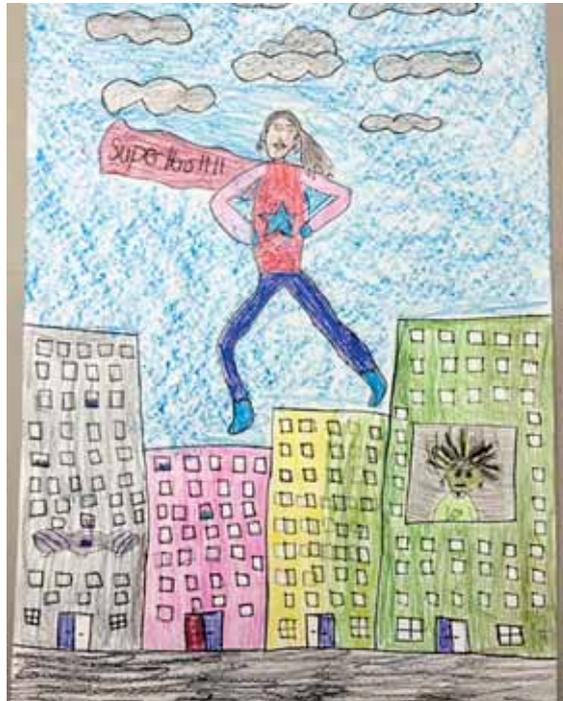
CHILDREN'S GAZETTE

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR GAZETTE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WOODLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY



Me As a Superhero by Espen Wold, 12, grade 6



Me As a Superhero by Jessica Nyamekye, 12, grade 6



Celebrate Community by Charlotte Meyers, 7, grade 2



Welcome to the Zoo by Mia Miller, 7, grade 2



Celebrate Community by Samantha Hill, 8, grade 2



Seasonal Painting by Laraib Naseem, 6, grade 1



Seasonal Painting by William Welch, 6, grade 1

Queen Lackalaylie and the Velvet Touch

Queen Lackalaylie loved her family more than anything in the world except for velvet. She loved her daughter. She loved her husband. But she really really loved velvet. As days went past Queen Lackalaylie discovered that she liked velvet much much more than family.

One day she went to her treasure room and looked around her treasure room. She said, "I will never have as much velvet as I want! How I wish that everything I touch will turn to velvet!" As Queen Lackalaylie finished a strange figure appeared. The figure said, "You can have what you wish for Queen Lackalaylie."

Queen Lackalaylie was delighted. She looked down at her clothes and she saw that they were velvet! She rushed to the bathroom and looked in the mirror, and

her skin and hair were velvet, too! She rushed out of the bathroom and into the gardens. There she watched trees and leaves and flowers turn to velvet by her lightest touch. She went into the palace to have some breakfast. As she sat down her chair turned to velvet. So did her knife, fork, spoon, plate, and tablecloth and the floor.

She was also starving. But when she started eating she found that she had asked for too much. She screamed, "My food is velvet!!!" "Why oh why?!" she cried. "I asked for too much VELVET! Boo hoo hoo!!!"

Her daughter saw that she was sad and ran to put her arms around Queen Lackalaylie. Queen Lackalaylie saw what was going to happen. She ran back, but it was too late. Her daughter

had touched her. Her daughter immediately turned into a velvet rug.

Queen Lackalaylie saw the figure in the doorway again. "Queen Lackalaylie," said the figure, "Go wash in the stream and the velvet touch should be taken from you." She ran into the stream speedy quick. Queen Lackalaylie washed off in the stream.

The leaves and the trees and the flowers turned back into different colors again and to her great joy she saw her daughter running towards her. As Queen Lackalaylie walked through the gardens with her family, she was truly happy.

The End
— NATALIE STANKIEWICZ, 8,
GRADE 2

Welcome

Dear Readers: This week, The Gazette turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of

the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art. Because of the response, we will continue to publish more artwork and writings throughout January.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2015 calendars for early December, the deadline for submis-

sions for next year's Children's Gazette. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

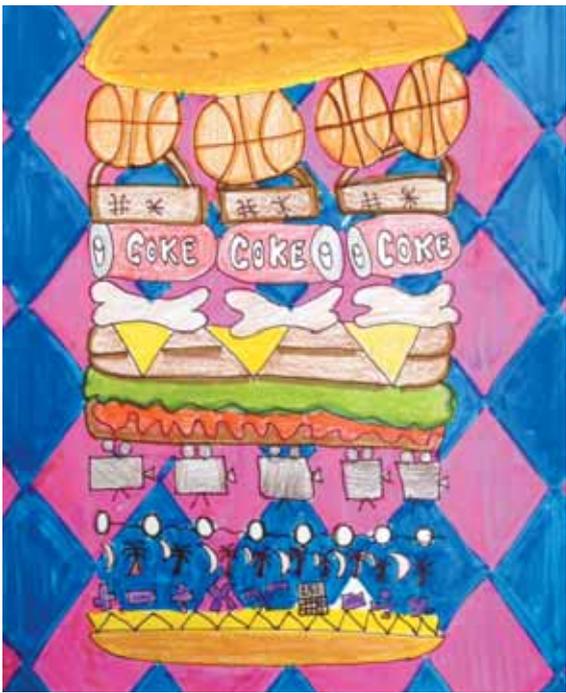
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other

submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9415 with any questions.

— EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN

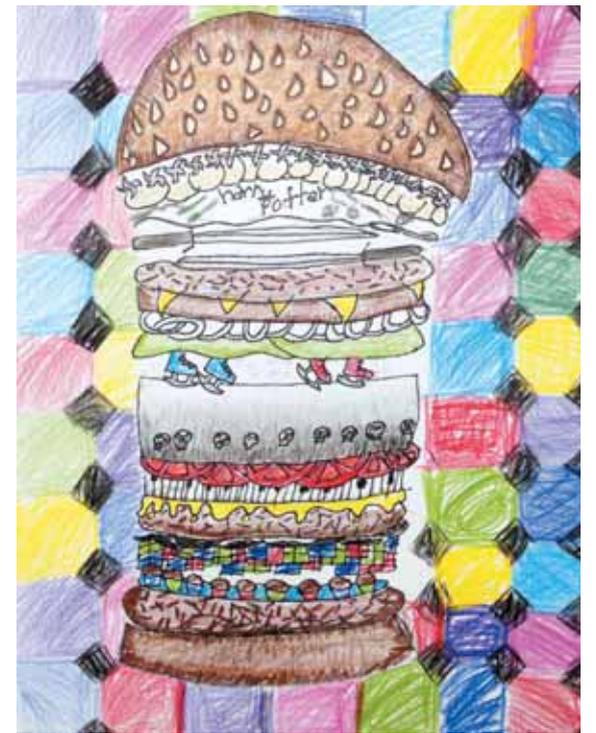
GROVETON ELEMENTARY



Darlyn Gutierrez Martinez, Groveton Elementary, grade 6

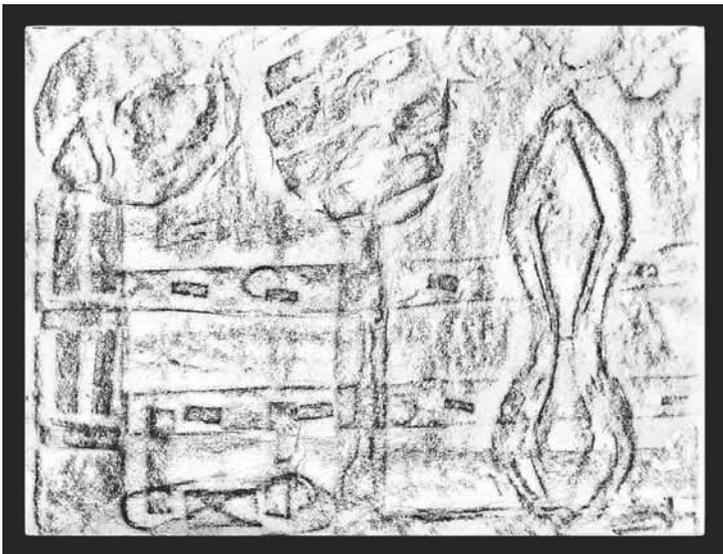


Aron Lorenzo Groveton Elementary, grade 3



Erika Zagada Matamoros, Groveton Elementary, grade 6

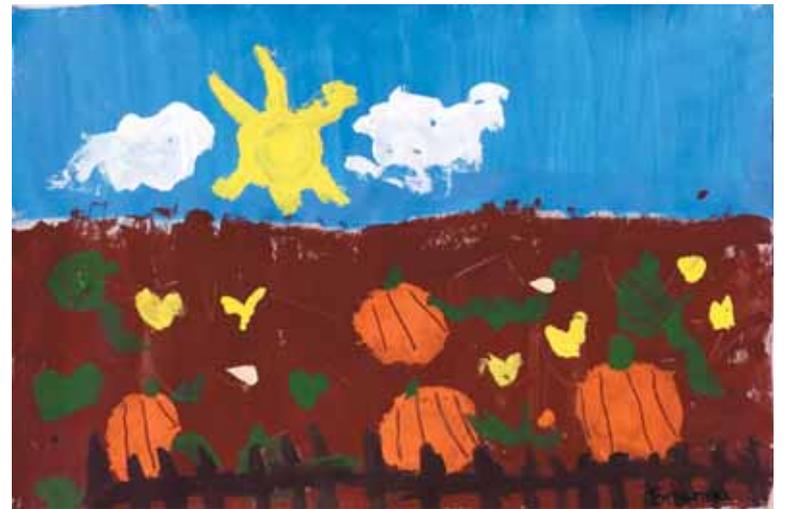
Haley Gutierrez Martinez, Groveton Elementary, grade Kindergarten



Zoe Wilson, Groveton Elementary, grade 4



Jeremiah Harkless, Groveton Elementary, grade 2



Brianna Sorto-Turcios, Groveton Elementary, grade Kindergarten



Monica DeCorla Lopez, Groveton Elementary, grade 5



Wyatt Woods, Groveton Elementary, grade 1

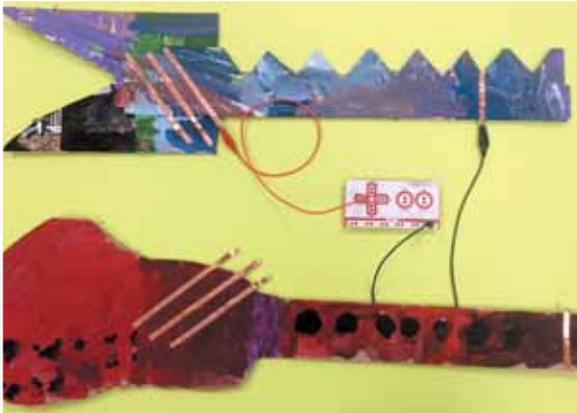
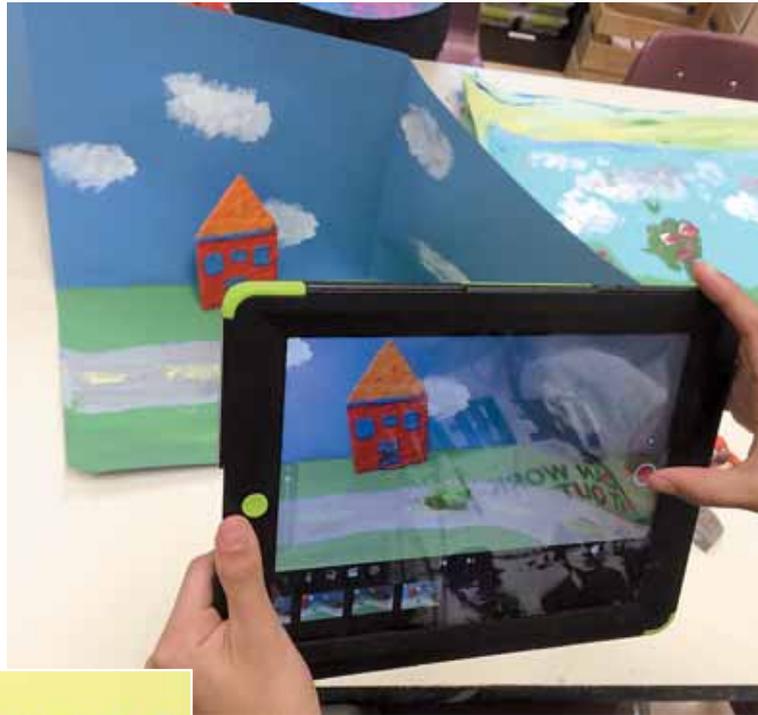


Danna Romero, Groveton Elementary, grade 2

BUCKNELL ELEMENTARY

STEAM Investigations In Art Lab

Students at Bucknell now have Art Lab sessions once a month where we investigate and create with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). This fall, students have been exploring color, animation, and circuitry using iPads, computers, and Makey Makeys. 4th-6th graders are creating clay stop-motion animations. 2nd and 3rd graders are collaborating to build a table sized interactive city that plays recorded sound effects with the Makey Makeys. Kindergarten and 1st Grade have been designing their own instruments that play sound on the computer using conductive materials, closed series circuits, and Makey Makeys. This spring, we will begin investigations in coding, game design, and invention prototyping.



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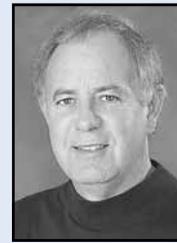


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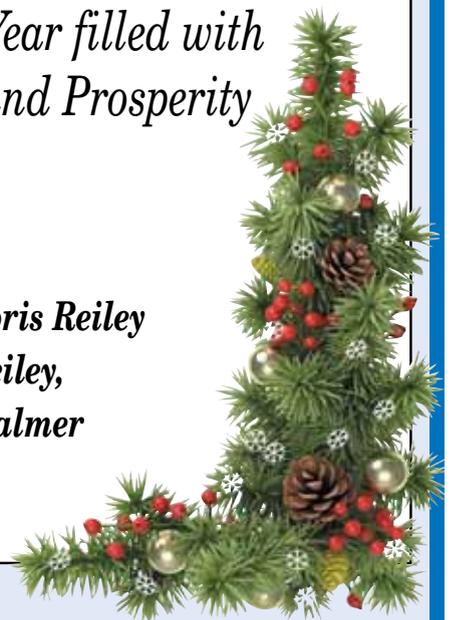


Season's Greetings

*During the Holiday Season,
I find myself reflecting on the
past year and on those who have
helped us shape our business.
Thank you for your
continued support.*

*Wishing you and yours
a Happy Season and
a New Year filled with
Peace and Prosperity*

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Liz Reiley,
Kelly Palmer*



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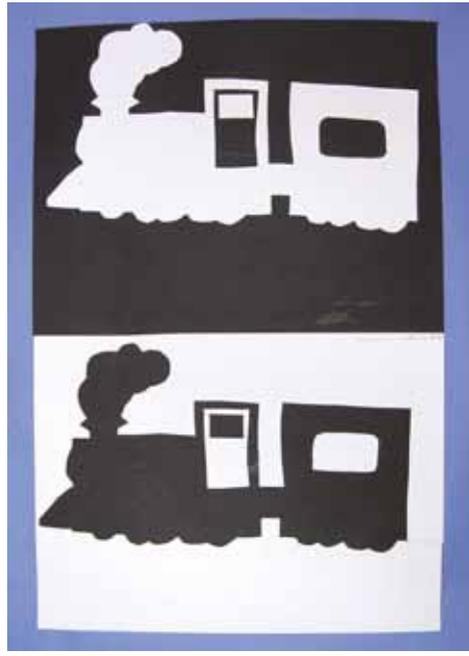
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY



Harika Filizer, grade 1



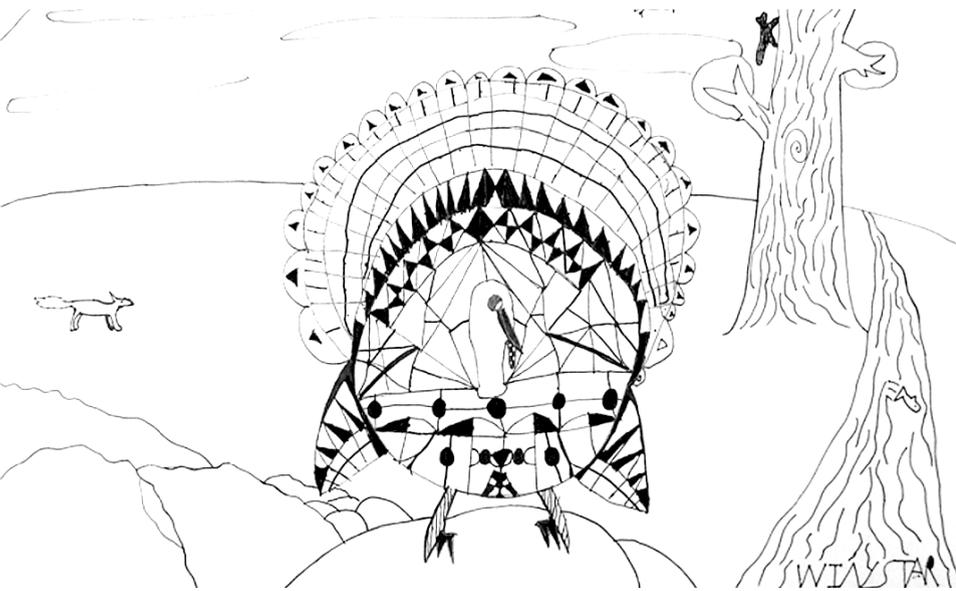
Charlie Wilkinson



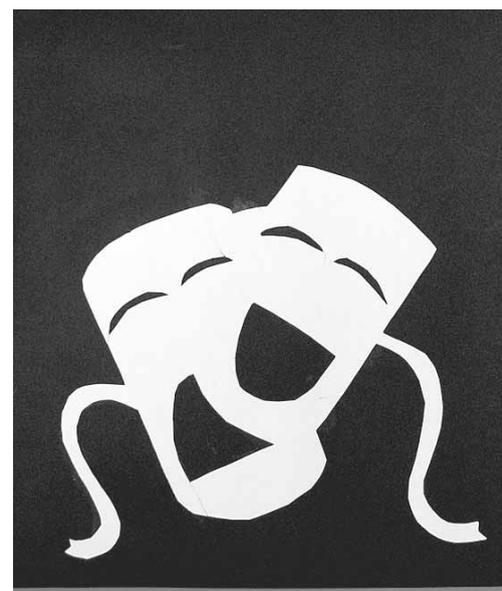
Laurel Heinzen, grade 1



Maggie Thompson, grade 6



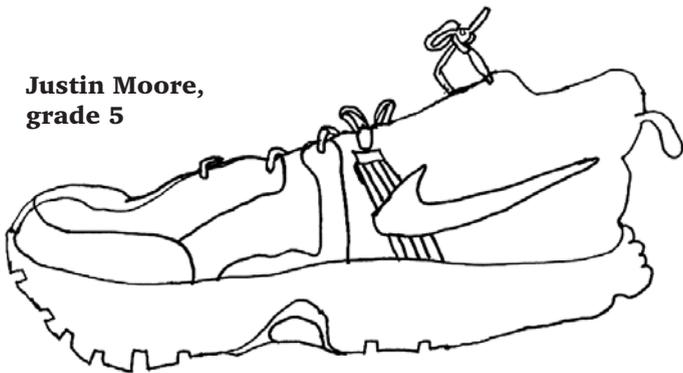
Winston Hull, grade 5



Sabrina Sanchez, grade 6



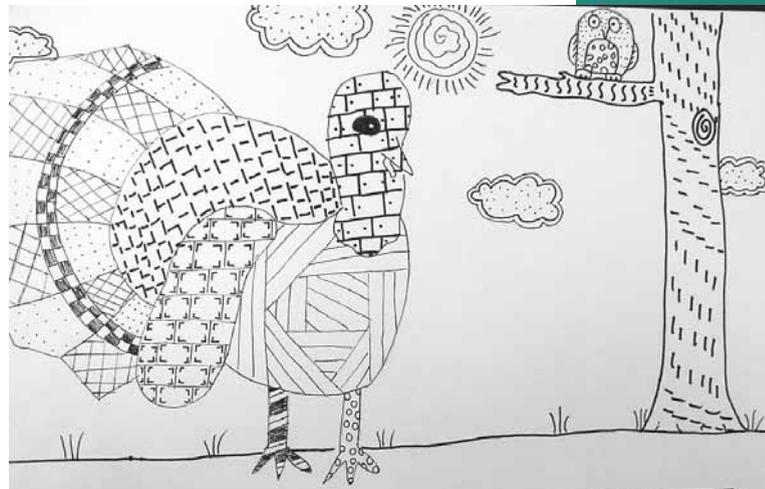
Justin Moore,
grade 5



Owen Thomas,
kindergarten



Paige Schoeffel, grade 6



Nathan Ver Hage, grade 5

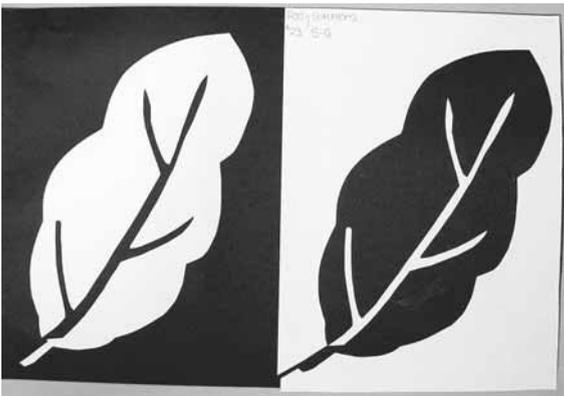


Oliver Miller, grade 1



Nathan Wrieden, grade 1

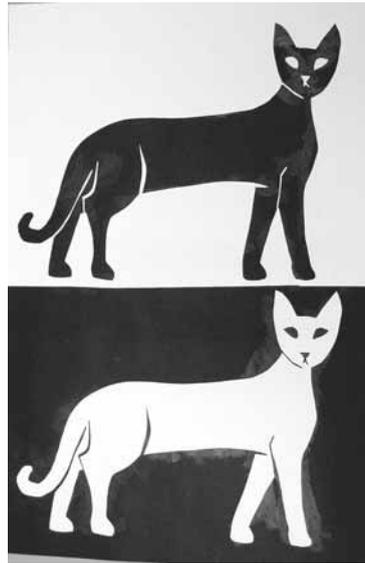
WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY



Addy Sommers, grade 6



Georgia Cartwright, kindergarten



Allyanna Nygaard, grade 6



Ashlyn Kimes, grade 6



Brendaon Lafley, kindergarten



Faith Gibson, grade 4



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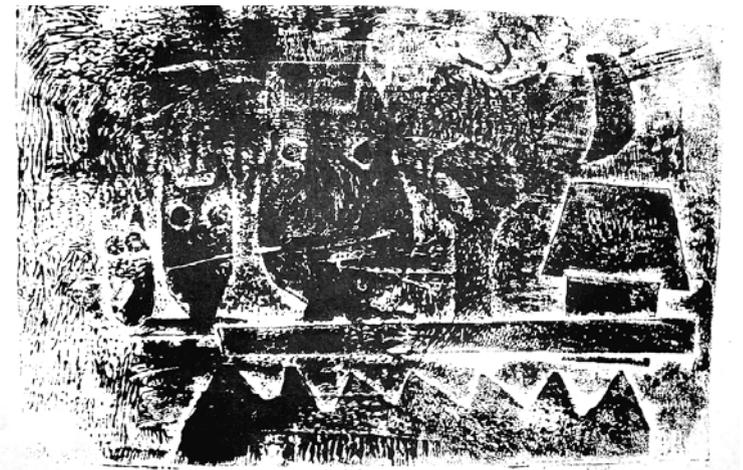
BUCKNELL ELEMENTARY



Kyree, grade 2, Collograph print of an Animal Habitat



Liam, grade 2, Collograph print of an Animal Habitat



Taylor, grade 2, Collograph print of an Animal Habitat



Daniela BB, grade 5



Erik HM, grade 5



Anthony, kindergarten, Drawing of Radial Lines



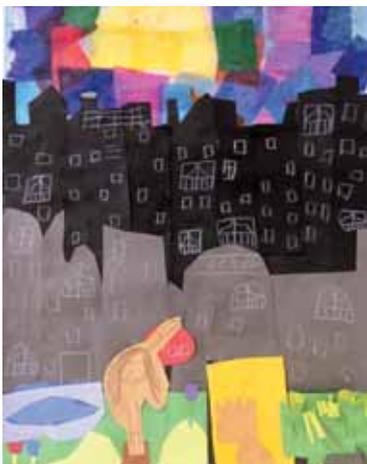
Alberta, kindergarten, Cut Paper Self Portrait



Sydney J, grade 6



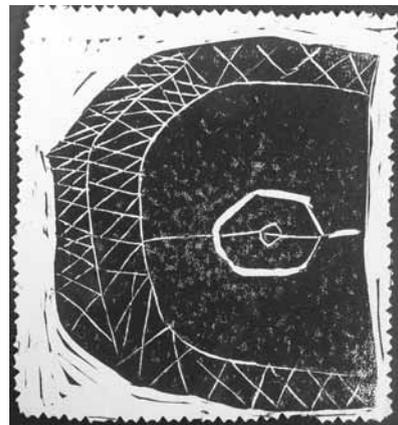
Michael AE, grade 6



Jaide R, grade 2



Ethen MM, grade 2



Chris QG, grade 6

Alyssa S, grade 1



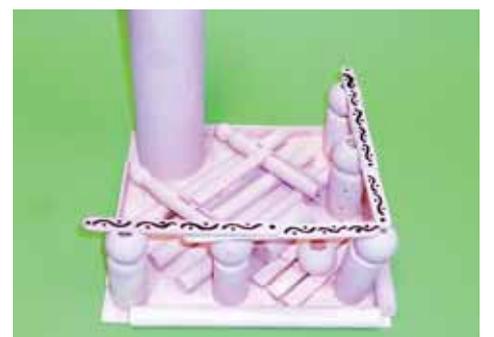
Littzy, grade 6, Found Object Wood Sculpture



Kelvin, grade 6, Found Object Wood Sculpture



Loisy F, grade 6, Found Object Wood Sculpture



Samantha, grade 6, Found Object Wood Sculpture

BUCKNELL ELEMENTARY



Gerardo, grade 5, 3-D Paper Sculpture of a Playground



Ethan R., grade 5, Oil Pastel Self Portrait



C.J., kindergarten, Drawing of Radial Lines



Cecelia, grade 3, Self Portrait Drawing



Andrea, grade 3, Self Portrait Drawing



Luis, grade 3, Self Portrait Drawing



Juana, grade 3, Self Portrait Drawing



Irael E, kindergarten



Brenda AM, kindergarten



Mariah M, grade 1

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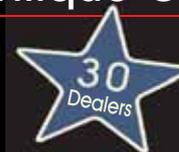


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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JANUARY

1/7/2015 Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/14/2015 HomeLifeStyle
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 19
1/21/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
1/28/2015 Neighborhood Outlook
1/28/2015 Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;
Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/4/2015 Wellbeing – National Children's Dental Health Month
2/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle
2/11/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16
2/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
2/25/2015 Pet Connection Pullout

MARCH

3/4/2015 Wellbeing
3/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
3/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
3/25/2015 Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

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- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



Andrew Kim, kindergarten



Hilari Keane, grade 2, Animals in Public



Richard (Connor) Gilchrist, kindergarten



Maya Repeta, grade 2, "Neighborhood Friends"



Nelly Chavez Urrutia, grade 1

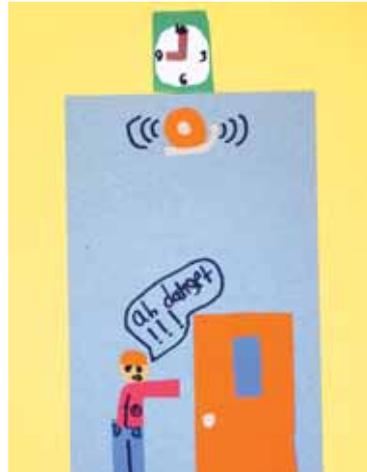
Benjamin Briede, grade 1, "My Special Family Member Portrait"



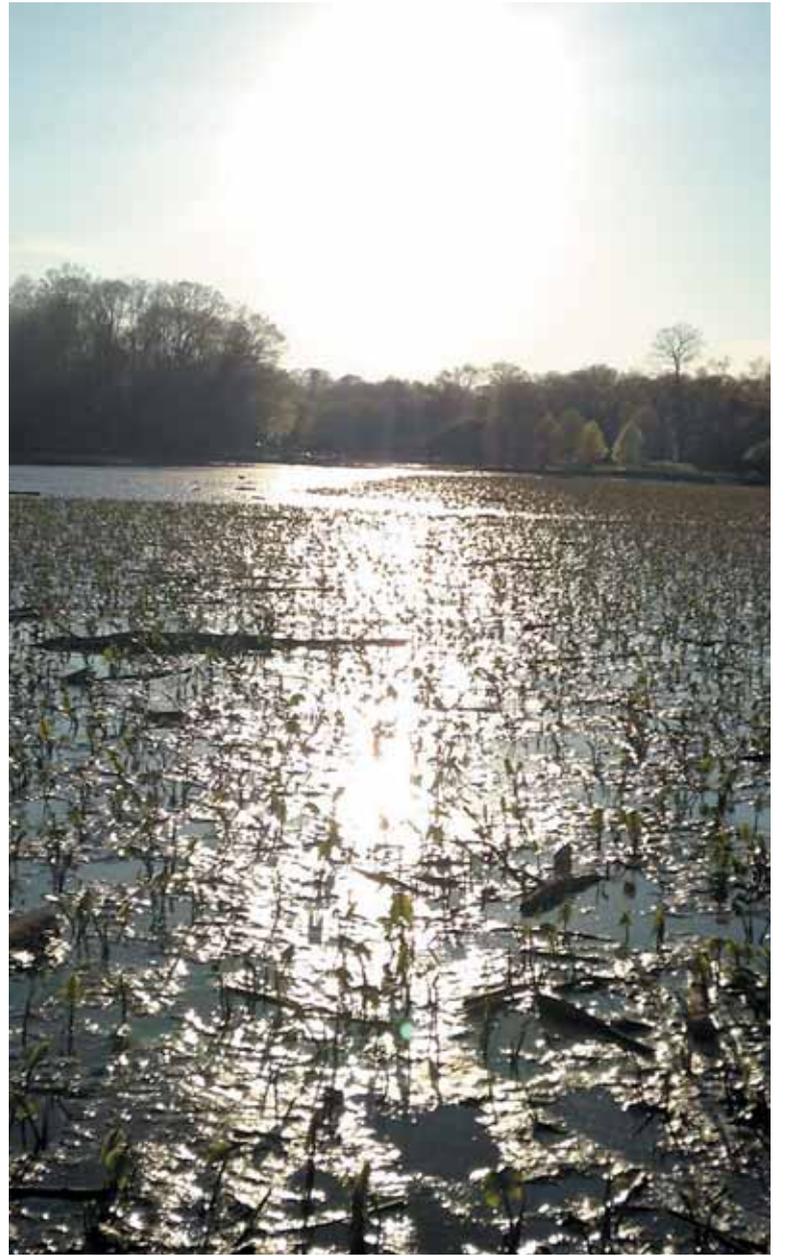
Amy Harwood, grade 4, "My Important Moment in Time"



Piero Roque, grade 4, "My Important Moment in Time"



Charlie Krebs, grade 4, "What's the BIG Idea: Time"



Annabella Mason, Landscape, grade 6

WRITINGS

My Worst Injury

When I was little, I loved chewing on things. But I learned my lesson after this day. I was 2 at the time, and I'll admit I was pretty careless too.

I was watching Pinocchio (for the millionth time), and I was trying to find something to chew on. My mom (the one who always yelled at me for chewing on things) wasn't home so I could chew all I wanted. I tapped on my head and found a hair-clip. They were always good to chew on. I took it off faster than you can say spaghetti, and put it in my mouth. Then it was my favorite part in Pinocchio, the part where the fairy turns Pinocchio into a real boy, and didn't pay any attention to the hair-clip in my mouth.

I felt it slide down my mouth, like a snake slithers into its cave. Then it flipped, like a gymnast doing a flip off the balance beam, and got stuck in my throat! I couldn't breathe. I gasped for air but couldn't. I tried to scream but instead made a dying chicken sound. It was enough to get my dad's attention though. He looked off his phone, and sprinted towards me. He stuck his big hand in my tiny mouth. I felt the hair-clip scrape my throat, and the blood running down my throat faster than a guy running a marathon. It came out of my throat and I got a glimpse of a bloody hair-clip. I gasped and started hyperventilating for air. My dad scooped me up, grabbed the keys and his phone, and we drove off to the emergency

room. All I could think of was, I am NEVER doing that again!

— ELISA MATSON, GRADE 6

The Scar

It was a warm summer afternoon. I was playing with my friends, jumping on their neighbor's trampoline. There was four of us including myself. We were all laughing and having fun as we soared through the air like eagles! I hadn't felt so good in ages! But the feeling didn't last long, for I had attempted to do a flip in the air, but lost control and burned my left leg on the trampoline. It hurt.

Soon I was back on my feet bouncing up and down like a rabbit. I bounced and hoped and leaped. The more the pain faded away in my leg, the closer I got to the edge of the trampoline. Within minutes the pain was completely gone, and I was on the very edge of the trampoline. One...more... jump. I leaped, expecting to land on the bouncy surface, but it never came. I fell down, down, until... BAM!

I was kneeling on the soft grass, both of my knees were dug into the ground. Suddenly, a shock of pain pierced through my leg. I looked at it to find a shard of glass sticking out of my knee! I knew that it would leave a nasty scar, and it did. But all that I could think about then was, "Ow!"

—GRACIE SCHAUB, GRADE 6

SEE FORT HUNT, PAGE 11

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FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



Viviana Reyes, grade 2



Paris Edlefsen, grade 6

WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 10

Explorer Journal - Experiencing the Fear of the Unknown

~November 5th 1497~
Dear Diary,

Yep, me again, clueless of everything. Everything out at sea is a total mystery. We are completely scared of the creatures like the Lochness Monster eating us, when we should be worrying about the people having scurvy, lack of supplies, and most importantly bad navigational tools. But instead we worry about silly tales that might not even be true.

We never know what is going to happen, yesterday I was mopping the deck with a couple of my fellow shipmates when all of a sudden a giant grey

SEE FORT HUNT, PAGE 17

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❄️ ❄️ *Happy Holidays from Burgundy!* ❄️ ❄️

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—Helena Scott

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STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY



Ava Rashidfarokhy, kindergarten



Dean DaRos, grade 4, Painting



Gavin Moore, grade 1, Mixed Media



Reese Haggerty, grade 4



Quinn Rosenbaum, grade 2



Megan Teitel, grade 6



Viviana Danielsen, grade 3, Drawing



Sofia Perkins, grade 2



Ethan Curtis, grade 2, Mixed Media



Evan Graves, grade 4, Collage



Kyra Oleniczak, kindergarten, Collage

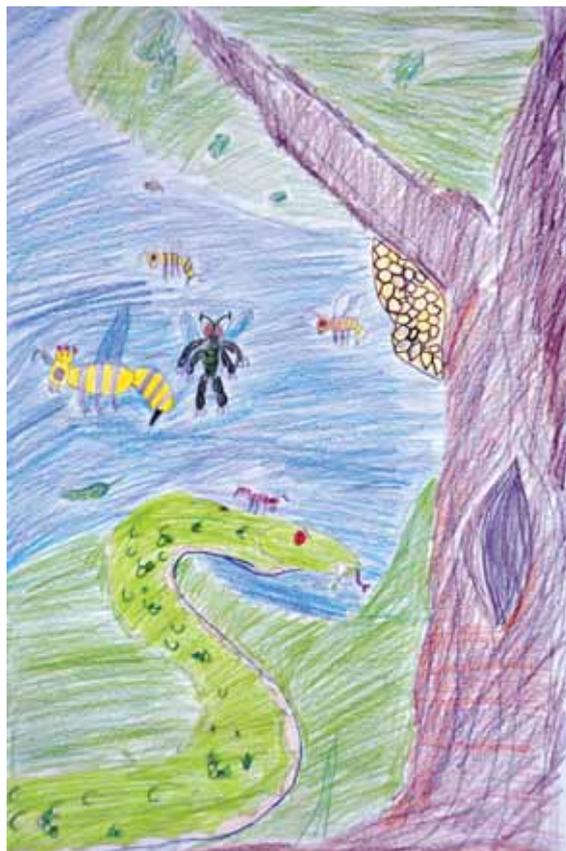


Jack Taylor, grade 6, Drawing

STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY



Andrew Colasanto, grade 3, Mixed Media



Ethan Casto, grade 6, Drawing



Lux Ray, grade 6, Mixed Media



Reese Haggerty, grade 4, Mixed Media



Kylie Rapp, grade 6, Drawing



Gunner Dutzman, grade 4, Painting



Julia Norton, grade 4, Painting

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 Ana Born, M.D.
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FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY



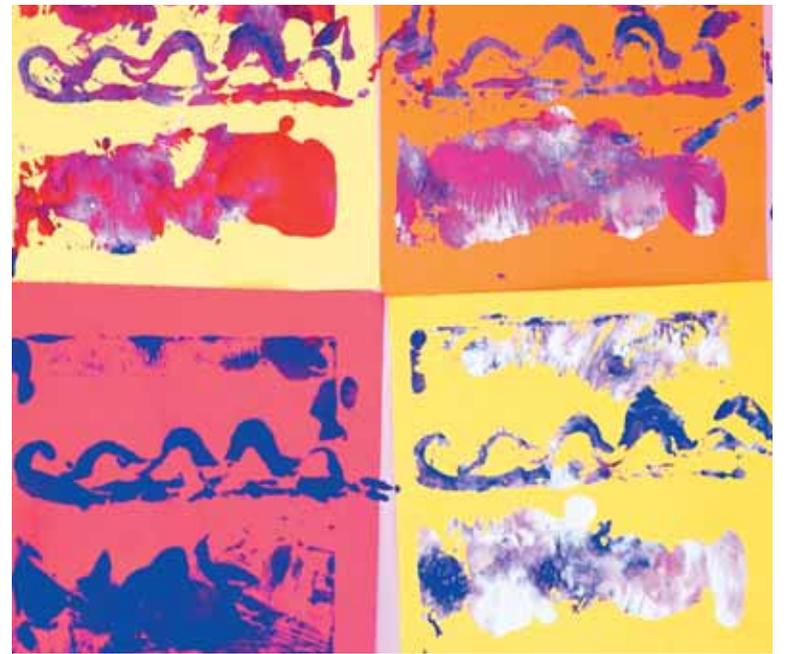
Galen June, grade 4, "Reaction Portrait"



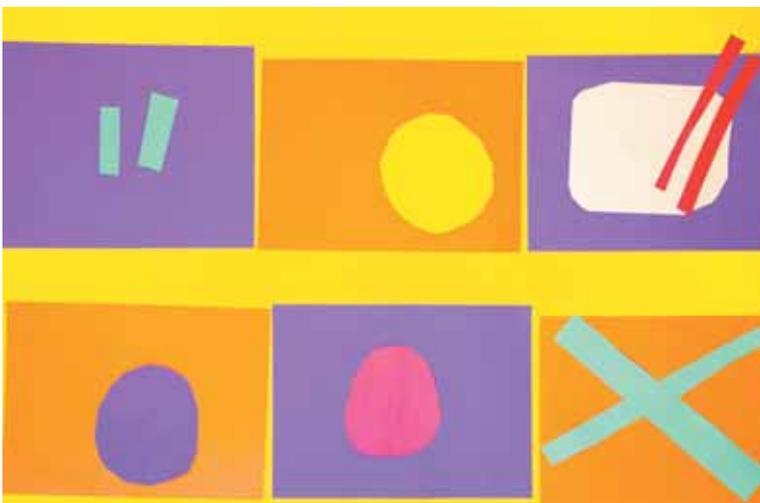
Addison Smith, grade 4, "My Important Moment in Time"



Dylan Korengold, grade 1, "My Special Family Member Portrait"



Parker Schroeder, Kindergarten, "Sense of the Season"



Cameron Darden, grade 3, "Set the Table"



Emily Leahy, grade 5, "Seeds of Change"



Yasmine Bolden, grade 6, "Reaction Portrait"



Thomas Cuddy, grade 6, "Reaction Portrait"



Anthony DiFolco, grade 6, "Landscape for the Future"



Katrina Kulinski, grade 6, "Landscape for the Future"



Kyla Thompkins, grade 4, "My Important Moment in Time"



Julian Perez Menefee, grade 6, "Super You"



Antonio Amaral, grade 4, "What's the BIG Idea: Time"

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

Stars

The stars smile down at me
They rock me to sleep
At night they wake me up
They go back to sleep at daybreak
They have bright, sparkly eyes
I love the stars,
They love me back
— CATHERINE KIM, GRADE 3
(CURRENT GRADE 4)



Madeleine F.

air

Seeing the sea and sun
gleaming bright like shining stars
fish swimming by
beauty strikes everywhere
but my happiness beats it all
with my moonlight fun

— CHRISTINA BURAVTSOVA,
GRADE 6 (CURRENT GRADE 7)

A Moment Along the Way

Trudging along an endless and unknown path
Eyes cast towards the concrete ground
Mind filled with idle and unimportant chores
Never once looking up and glancing around
Suddenly, I halted to sweet sounds of wind chimes
I looked up and glimpsed at streaks of rainbow birds flying by
I stood in surprised awe of the emerald land
A land of wonders and magic in every bend
I took a moment to stop along the dull way
Breathing in sweet fragrance of alluring flowers

Mesmerized by the trees as they gently sway
Stumbling upon a world of filtering light
Tranquil lullabies sang the soft chorus of a breeze
Exquisite decoration of floral and leaves
The sun shone a spotlight, for this was the day
When I took a moment along the endless way
— ROSY SULTANA, GRADE 7
(CURRENT GRADE 8)

A Bike Ride

Needles spin around a metal center
Black rubber covers the spokes
My feet rest on the pedals
As I steer towards the distant dunes
Wisps of smoke fade around me
And the skyscrapers disappear
The shore finally in view
As the concrete slips beneath me
I reach the sandy knolls
And swiftly hop off my bike
A spray of sea salt mists my face
As the azure tide froths at the shore
The air slowly becomes grey and hazy
Shrouding the streaks of early sun
Heavy clouds begin to trudge in
And tiny droplets of rain tap me
I rush out of the tumbling sea
And am loath to get on my wet bike
To return to the grey buildings
That will never satisfy me
— EJUN KIM, GRADE 7
(CURRENT GRADE 8)

The Waving Tree

I wave alone at the motionless tree
Shivering against the relentless gale
But to my surprise it waves back at me
The blazing warmth of my hears can set sail
Greeting me with arms so grand and ornate
The branches of joy have now fully grown
Winter winds sing with the voice of a mate
With my waving tree there is no alone
— KENNETH LIN, GRADE 7
(CURRENT GRADE 8)

Winter

Winter comes, pushing fall away
It breathes its icy cold breath
Chilling my spine
Crying, rain turns to snow
It sleeps with a blanket of white
As it comes, it freezes the land
The world feels blank
There is nothing in sight
Winter takes over day and night
The cold winter
— ALEXANDER HEARN,
GRADE 3 (CURRENT GRADE 4)

Grandmother

Her gray dry hands holding mine
Resting so quietly on a blue quilt
After dinner she turned and whispered
Not all bruises hurt

Divine in the day all dressed up
So many years ago
Older now but laughing
The cancer did not get her
How come she feels so tired
Every minute counts
Remember
— MICHAEL PANDULA,
GRADE 5 (CURRENT GRADE 6)

The Sea

The wind blows through my wavy hair
here and there I listen
to the sounds of the Earth
I jump happily through the wicked sand
Tumbling to my feet and tasting the

FORT HUNT ELEMENTARY

FROM PAGE 11

fin appeared as if it came out of thin air. The body of the creature was as big as one of our largest row boats and the mouth of the creature appeared to stretch as long as one of our largest men on the boat! Then, all of a sudden the creatures mouth opened and the teeth of the creature were the worst part of this greeting, each tooth was as big as the bottom of one of our oars. I thought it was going to eat us when surprisingly, John Cabot came to check on us. The creature must have been very scared of John, because it swam away as soon as he arrived to the scene. I was very glad he came!

Everyone on this boat is completely shaken up about everything they see. They take things very seriously here, even if you say you saw something mysterious in the water and nothing was there, you will be thrown overboard. Yesterday evening one of my shipmates saw a bird and thought it was a pterodactyl. Understandably everyone believed him so we had to take cover. When someone finally realized it was an eagle, the man was thrown overboard, left to be eaten by the unknown.

I have been hiding in my cramped room, hoping the captain forgets I'm even on this filthy boat, like the rest of my shipmates do. That doesn't work

because I have been chosen to mop the deck this afternoon.
I am having trouble, trying to find reasons to stay on this boat, well I need go mop the deck before I get in trouble

Off to seek the unknown.
YOUR FIRST MATE,
—MAGGIE DONNELLY,
GRADE 6



Munah Jappah, Calvin Gamiz, Killian Kenney and Dylan Rees-Hoofnagle, grade 2, "Community is Important"

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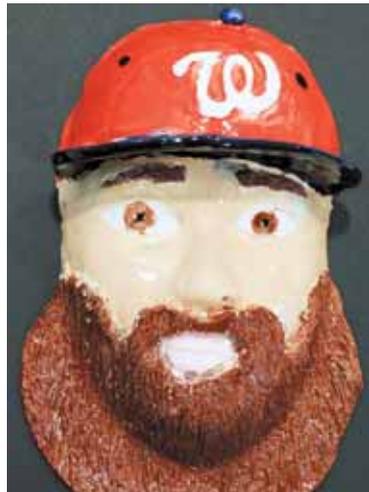
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BROWNE ACADEMY



Apple by Quentin Southall, grade 7, Ceramic



Baseball Player by Charlie Nyerges, grade 8, Ceramic



Cookie Monster by Chauncey Lynch, grade 8, Ceramic



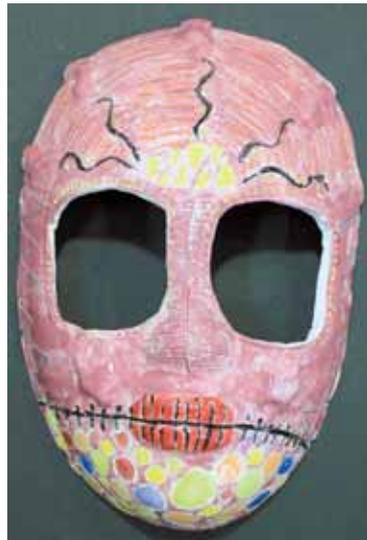
Dinner by Charlie Nyerges, grade 8, Ceramic



Tiger by Jalen Ford, grade 8, Ceramic



Ninja Turtle by Sasha Bates, grade 8, Ceramic



Mask by Valentina Selnick-Escobar, grade 8, Ceramic



Playground by Jack Anderson, grade 5, Crayon Resist Watercolor



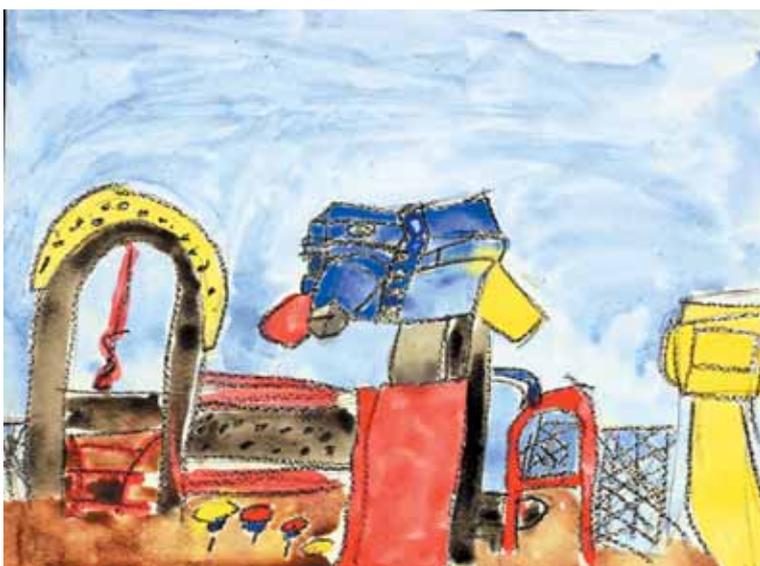
Skull Mask by Madison Manning, grade 8, Ceramic



Flag by Lena Beidas, grade 4, Oil Pastels



Mustache Map by Nicole Vivas, grade 5, History Project



Playground by Alessandra Johnson, grade 5, Crayon Resist Watercolor



Self-portrait by Sachin Paddock, preschool 3



Flag by Loden Schweizer, grade 4, Oil Pastels

BROWNE ACADEMY

WRITINGS

I am a Patriot!

America, America, the land of the free. America, America, what's it mean to me?

A country, oh so beautiful, made up of fifty states, a place where all the free go to find hope, love and peace.

A nation filled with people of every different race, and there's no discrimination because that's what the law states.

Our red, white and blue stands for valor, innocence and chief,

and as a nation built on fairness, never shall we cheat.

A country with a story from the colonies it starts,

then we gained our independence, July 4th is when we shoot the sparks.

A lovely little nation where the people roam free,

A place to be yourself not just for you, but for me.

Equality is supported, not by everyone, but most,

and let us keep in mind, anyone can vote.

Oh, America, America, not as perfect as it seems,

but let's just say this, it sure is supreme.

Oh, America, America, what's it mean to me?

Well, I'll tell you now, it's quite a lovely little dream.

— SYDNEY JACKSON, GRADE 8

Patriotic Fire

Patriotism. Patriotism is the love, devotion, sense of pride, and loyalty one gives to one's country. All these values of patriotism I have! Who wouldn't be proud? This is a great country. This country has battled through thick and thin for us, the people. This country has fought for freedom, rights, property, and liberty. Patriotism is the reason why America succeeds, why fellow Americans risk their lives everyday for the common good, why George Washington and the other forty-three presidents ran this country. Patriotism. Who wouldn't be proud or willing to do anything for this country! There are many of people who wish they could be a part of The United States of America so really, honestly, why wouldn't you have a sense of pride and compassion?

Patriotism is not something you can simply say, waving a little flag, voting, and even lighting a few firecrackers on the Fourth of July. No that's not Patriotism. Patriotism is singing the national anthem on the top of your lungs, placing your hand across your heart, sticking



Self-portrait by Matthew Letteri, grade 7, Charcoal Self Portrait



Self-portrait by Jillian Swain, grade 7, Charcoal Self Portrait



Self-portrait by Elyssar Grimmert, grade 7, Charcoal Self Portrait



Self-portrait by Emma Claire Bennett, preschool 4,

by your country during the terrific and terrible times, and even every so often, attending a US game and painting your body with the flag. Patriotism is a gift that everyone carries, spreads from one soul to the next like an unstoppable wildfire. There is no price for such a gift; for this one it pays in nothing but pure devotion and pride.

— IAN PENNY, GRADE 8

What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?

Patriotism means that one is willing to take risks that may cost one's life, to complete selfless acts for loved ones or for complete strangers. Veterans, above all, are true American patriots. Many people take veterans for granted and fail to honor their sacrifices. The challenges soldiers experience in training and in battles will be a part of them forever. Most citizens only take the time to acknowledge these sacrifices on certain days or at certain events, but in reality we should be acknowledging our veterans every day. One way of learning about our past is through our veterans and their stories that they have to offer. We should acknowledge our veterans not only on certain holidays, but everyday. We should thank them for what they have done for our country. Everybody has a sense of nationalism, or pride for their country, but veterans and people currently serving in the military, put their pride into action.. One who joins the army or military, without expecting recondition, is a true hero. Not doing a certain task or job for the publicity, but for the love of others, is a true veteran.

— HAILEY CHAUNCEY, GRADE 8

Nantucket

As soon as I get off the ferry and step onto Nantucket, I want to run to the beach as fast as I can. Why? I run down to that beach that is just like any other because of the special memories. I remember sharing it with people here and gone. I used to run here with my dog Sachem and now I run with Huckleberry. I feel happy here because of all the laughs that I have shared in this place with my family. I feel calm because of the soft sound of the waves hitting the shore, and the noisy seagulls calling out at the sunset. The sun on the greenish-blue water turns it orange and lights up the house, the beige sand, and everything else. The water smells slightly salty, and when you plunge in, sometimes the salty water gets in your mouth! Even if I am tired, on my beach I feel boundless energy. I love my little spot on the beach.

— JAIME WISE



Playground by Miles Carter, grade 5, Crayon Resist Watercolor

Yost Ice Arena

The place that is special to me is Michigan University ice rink. When I go to Yost Ice Arena, I feel happy because I hope that someday I will be playing there — someday when I am in college. I also feel excited because it's really big and so historic and it's also home to one of the best college hockey teams in the country. I also feel nervous thinking about playing there because I know I will have big shoes to step into if I want to go to Michigan. I smell the fresh air of the rink and I see the beautiful ice that I hope to skate on one day in my life. I smell the good smell of the oil/gas

SEE BROWNE, PAGE 20



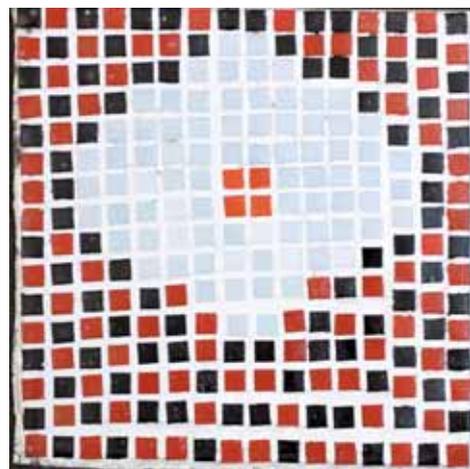
Spanish Snowman by Jekaterina Lucenko, grade 4,



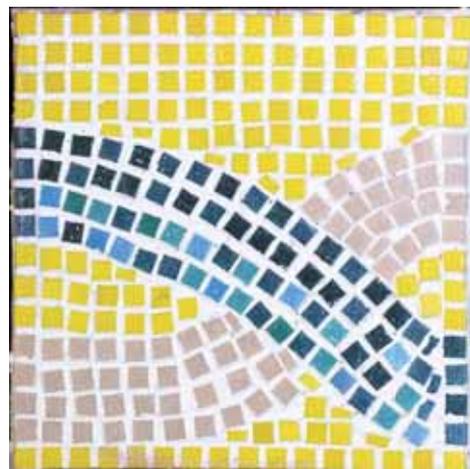
Self-portrait by Katie Feeley-Leetz, grade 7, Charcoal Self Portrait



Roman Mosaic by Diana Kleiman, grade 6



Roman Mosaic by Morgan Hughes, grade 6



Roman Mosaic by Deya Norton, grade 6



Roman Mosaic by Rodney Rice, grade 6

BROWNE ACADEMY

WRITINGS

FROM PAGE 19

from the zamboni about to clean the ice for a practice or a game. I hear talking from the rink managers and the players. I also hear chanting because everyone there wants to get excited for the game. I hear screaming because the student section is trying to get all fired up and amped. I see the bleachers when I go there and notice how nice and polished they are for the crowd. The boards are clean and white looking almost brand new for every home game. The rink is smooth and the big "M" in the middle of the ice is clear and hard not to notice. The goal posts are so bright, the pipes are red like a fire hydrant and the whites of the nets are as white as vanilla ice cream. I love my special place, Yost Ice Arena.

— GRAYDON SCHWEIZER

Saranac Lake

Only 60 miles away from Canada in The Adirondacks is a place called Saranac Lake. When I am at Saranac Lake, I feel like everything is safe because everyone seems warm and welcoming. Although the weather is cold, Saranac Lake is very cozy. I find Saranac Lake cozy, because of all the beautiful fireplaces inside of people's houses and in the town square. Everyone seems to always be happy and kind to one another. When you see someone walking around, usually someone will say "hi" to them, even if they don't know each other. Saranac Lake is cold even in the summer. In the summer it can get down to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Saranac Lake is always fresh; it smells like flowers there that people grow, and freshly grown foods. It also smells like Christmas. By that I mean the smell of Christmas trees and things that people cook around Christmas, such as turkeys. I hear people gathered in groups singing Christmas songs. In Saranac Lake, I hear wind howling, even though I am in my hotel room. Gazing out of my window, I see mountains left and right. At the top of the mountains there is almost always a little bit of snow, and ice. Saranac Lake is a fantastic place to visit because there are so many beautiful things to see.

— ETHAN BAXLEY

The Canoe Trip

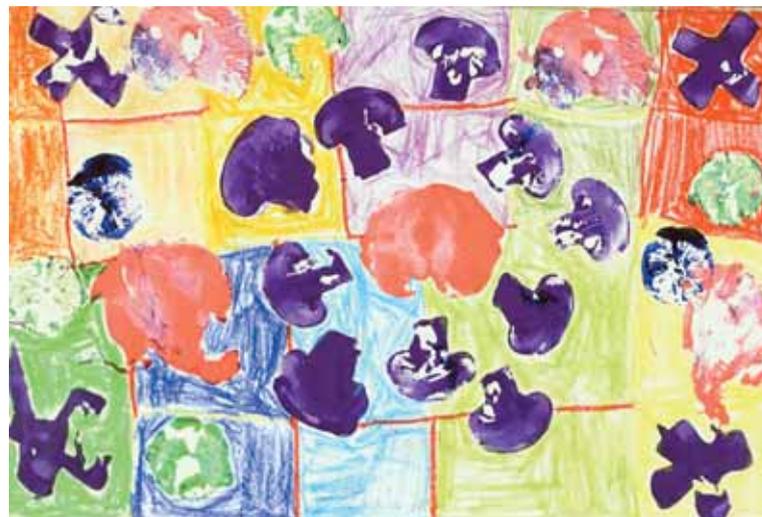
Last week at Horizons Outdoor Learning Center, the sixth grade went on a three-mile canoe trip along the Shenandoah River. Simon and I were partnered up together as canoe buddies



Spanish Sports by Jillian Swain, grade 7, Spanish Poster



Spanish Sports by Grace Carter, grade 7, Spanish Poster



Vegetable Print by Blair Gilmore, grade 3, Pastels & Tempera Paint



Vegetable Print by Nicholas Gacad, grade 3, Pastels & Tempera paint

during the trip. The start of the trip was great, beautiful, and fascinating until we came upon the rapids. There were two paths.

The right contained multiple narrow openings. We noticed most people went that way but, became temporarily stuck in the rocks, so we decide to go to the left. The left looked quicker and safer, although it had a small rapid area. The first obstacle we faced was a dangling willow tree branch. I didn't have enough time to just let go of my paddle and move the branch so I leaned back and ninja dodge it. When I came back up

into place, my awe only lasted for a second. The rapids were moving us forward quicker than we wanted to. We hit shore hard and we both tumbled out. The water was freezing! I felt my hand slide over two mossy, disgusting rocks and I shot up out of the water. While trying to flip our capsized boat, a pain hit my leg. It was one of the rocks that my leg hit under the water. I ignored it and climbed back into the canoe. Simon

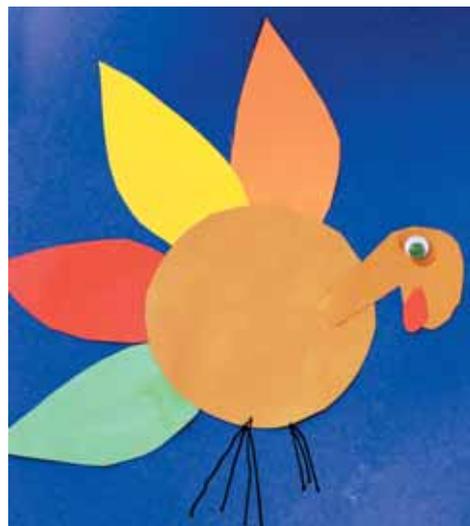
pushed us off of the shore and climbed back into the boat, too. As soon as I thought the worst was over, the canoe started shaking again and back into the water we went. My paddle and Simon's water shoe ran down the river. Simon, with his shoe missing and using the lone remaining paddle, started to move towards the lost items down the stream. Once again a "conveniently" placed rock hit us again! The cold water didn't even

bother me at this point, I was just mad because we couldn't get a break. We both carefully and slowly climbed back into the boat and we saw our items returned to us by Mr. Jonathan and a Horizon counselor. After that the beauty was brought back to the river and we rowed the rest of the canoe trip in peace and happy moods

— MORGAN HUGHES



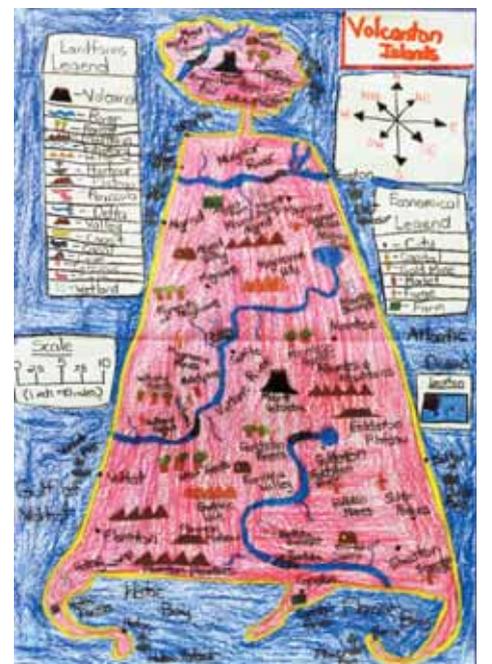
Turkey by Marianna Freeman, preschool 4,



Turkey by Alexsander Absher, preschool 4,



Spartan Island by Matthew Wilson, grade 5, History Project



Volcano Map by Morgan Hughes, grade 6, History Project

BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



Juliette Shea, grade 5, Burgundy Farm Country Day School



Jalen Friday, grade 6



Vivian Gillman, grade 8



Darius Wise, grade 3



Allan Flanagan-Awad, kindergarten



Olive Regan, grade 4



Maya Topalhan, kindergarten

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Sunday 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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Sofia Lloyd, grade 8



Nicholas Foster, grade 3



Noah Cumti, kindergarten



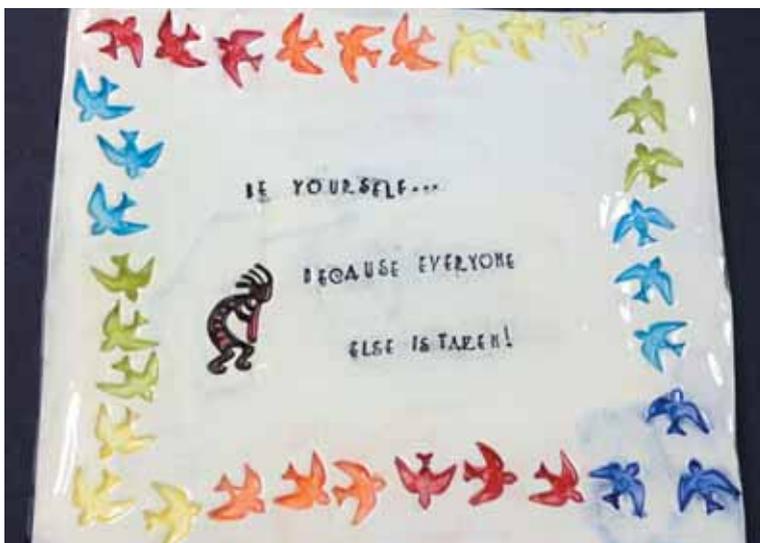
Carolyn Miller, kindergarten



Adrienne Moseley, kindergarten



Felipe Garcia-Acosta, kindergarten



Arainn Murphy, grade 8



Michael Dobbs, grade 3



Ruby Adhoot, grade 5



Noah Cumti, kindergarten



Evie Ankele, grade 6



Brentan Rath, kindergarten

BURGUNDY FARM



Helena Dobbs, grade 4



Thomas McKnight, kindergarten



Annie Sullivan, grade 3



Ruby Adhoot, grade 5

THE HOWARD GARDNER SCHOOL



Andrew Savino, 16, grade 10

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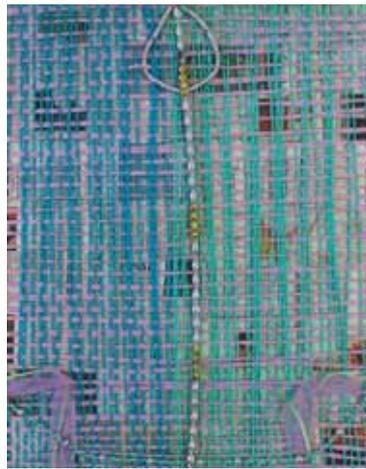
UCM mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. UCM is grateful for the ongoing support of

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ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



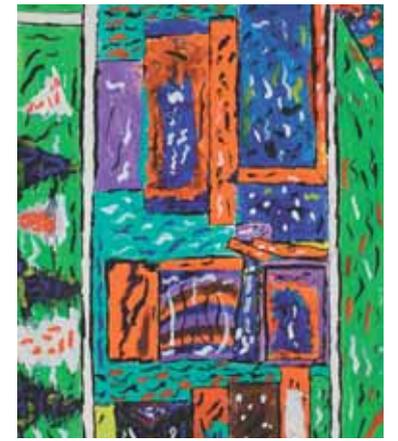
Alicia Keo, grade 7



Caroline Coburn, grade 8



Christopher Hardman, grade 1



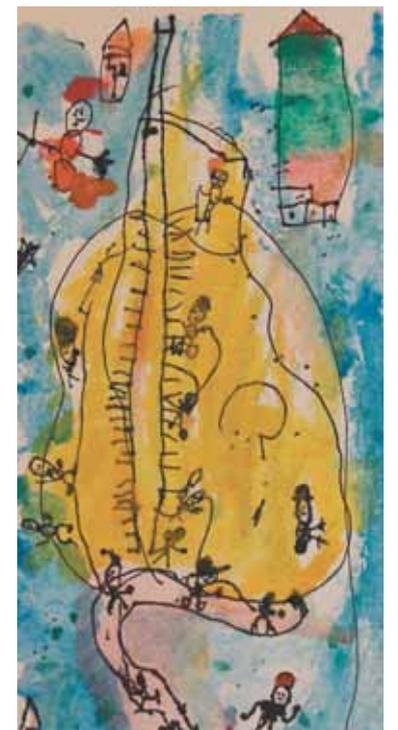
Davis Loveng, grade 7



Evelyn Tucker, grade 4



Heuer Erdle, grade 1



Jack Nagtzaam, grade 3



John Bucholz, grade 7



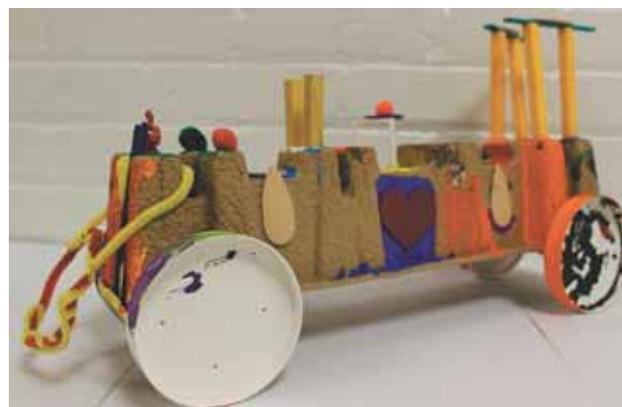
Kelsey Mathieson, grade 3



Nora Stanko, grade 8



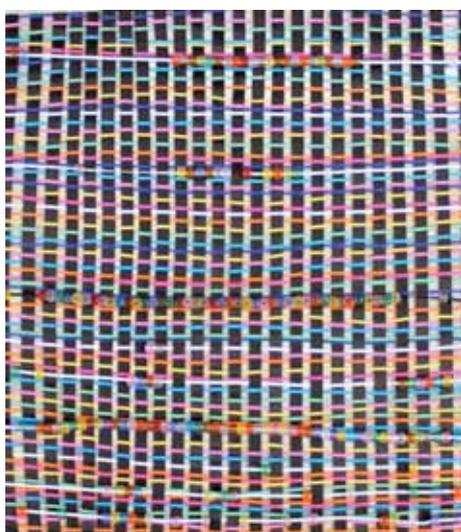
Alexandria Country Day School Kindergarten Class



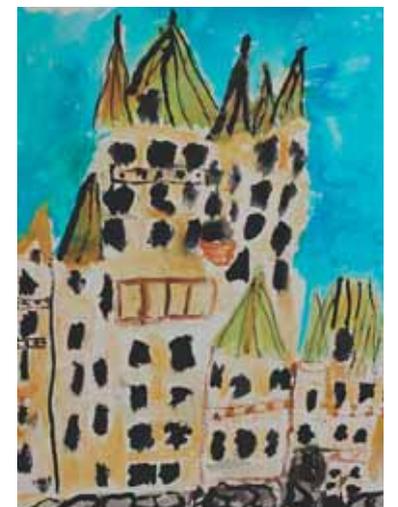
Mareli Rivera, grade 1



Ty Bransford, grade 2



Trinity Palacio, grade 8



Sarah Mattson, grade 3

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21 Announcements

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well done, is
to have done it.
- Ralph Waldo
Emerson

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Obituary



John Alfke Campbell,

beloved father and faithful friend, died on Monday November 24, 2014 in Alexandria, Virginia. John is survived by his two daughters, Barbara C. Holt of California and Elizabeth C. Wilmot of Virginia. He will be deeply missed by his grandchildren, Lauren G. Wilmot and Jack Holt and his son-in-laws, Peter Adler and David Holt. He is predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Janet Campbell.

He was born in Bronxville, New York in 1924. He attended Middlebury College for a short while before enlisting in the Army Air Corps. He was a bomber pilot in World War II. He was a 1st lieutenant who flew 35 missions in a B-17. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and an air medal with 3 clusters plus 6 battle stars.

When he got out of the service he went to Columbia University on the GI bill where he met his future wife. He earned both his undergraduate and his Master's degree from Columbia.

He made his living as a salesman which was a career he was perfectly suited for as he could charm anyone into anything and made everyone who knew him feel special. He retired from Lord Abbett, a mutual fund company on Wall Street, having risen to the position of national sales manager. He and his family lived in New Canaan, CT for 40 years before retiring to Lake Placid, FL. He spent his summers at a cottage in the 1000 Islands. He moved to Virginia after the death of his wife to be with his daughter.

In Connecticut, he was active in the Senior Men's club and ran the Saint Marks Fair for many years. He was a fabulous bridge player having played on the train to New York City and he was in much demand as a bridge partner. He was an avid investor who carefully watched the market and was part of the "Ticker Club" in Florida. He loved music and the outdoors. He enjoyed skiing, hiking, fishing and travelling.

He was an outgoing man who found the best in every situation and the best in every person. He always had a twinkle in his eye, a smile and a kind word. He was a true gentleman. He is already deeply missed. A service was held for him at Paul Springs Retirement home and he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Donations in his name may be made to the Church of the St. Lawrence in Alexandria Bay, NY.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

WRITINGS

The Magic Flute Inspires Students

On Wednesday, November 19, 2014 my class went to The Magic Flute opera. It was a lot of fun. Before we went on their field trip our teacher read us the book. The opera has a lot of songs. James liked Prince Tamino's song. Davis said, "I liked it when they killed the dragon!" Willem liked how the magical instruments, bells and flute, sparkled. Langston liked how the Queen of the Night turned into Papagena. The actress played both parts because they were not on stage at the same time. Our class was very surprised that they didn't have Monostatos or Sarastro. If they had those characters it would have been 3 hours long.

— OLIVER MILLER, 8, GRADE 3

2014 Upper Elementary Thanksgiving Ode

We are thankful for Earth, for it is reliable. It provides us with all the Materials needed for life. It is our home of love, comfort, and safety. We are appreciative of our education and the arts because they allow us to be creative and express ourselves. We are grateful for sports and games to play. As well as, family, friends, and pets with whom to play these games.

— THE UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GRADES 4-6, AGES 9-12

The Monarch's Adventure

Our class took care of the monarch butterflies this fall. First we took care of the monarch's eggs, and then the eggs hatched and caterpillars came out. They eat and eat and eat. They eat a lot and shed their skin about five times. The fifth time is the hardest time because they make their chrysa-



Brooke Lawson, 11



Ana Jones, 11

lis. When it is black the butterfly flies out. They eat for two whole weeks and then they make their "j". The "j" has a silk button. Then they do the pupa dance. The pupa dance is a dance that they do to take off the old skin and wiggle into their chrysalises. They are in the chrysalis for 11 days. Nobody should touch the pupa because it will transform to a monarch butterfly. Then the new butterfly holds onto chrysalis to dry their wings. This helps them to fly and get ready for their migration. Monarchs go about 2,500 miles all the way to Mexico to stay for the winter. They even may start in Canada and fly all the way to Mexico. But they do stop to get nectar. Their stomachs must be full so they can keep going. We raised over 50 monarchs from eggs to adults. We tagged 48 adult Monarch butterflies and released them. We hope they make it to Mexico.

— JAMES MCCAIN, 8, GRADE 2 & JAMES EWART, 8, GRADE 2

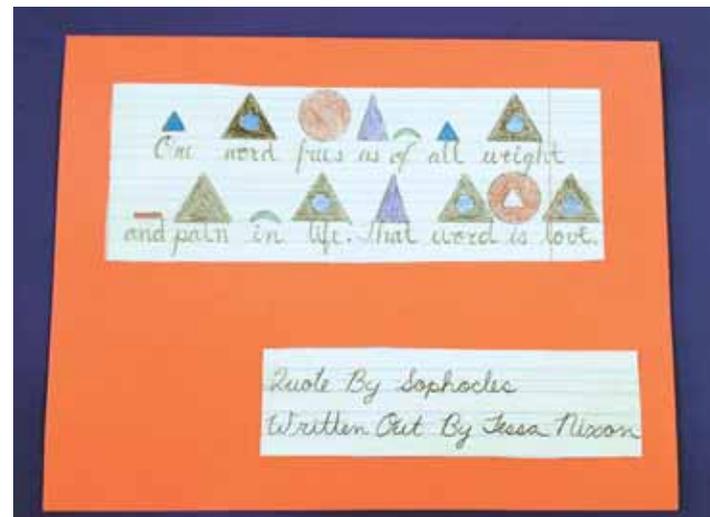
walked around the perimeter of the school holding signs that said Help the Homeless. We did it to remind people to help homeless people. We raised money for UCM. "The students of Aquinas Montessori are pleased to have raised \$950 for the homeless in our community" said Beth Lovell, coordinator for the Aquinas walk. During the walk we wore t-shirts that said Help the Homeless. "I liked making the shirt and I liked raising money for people who don't have enough" said Oliver age 8.

— MAX MATHEWS, 7, GRADE 2 & ADELINE BECKHAM, 8, GRADE 3

We Found Sandy the Snake

We have a snake living in a cage in our class. We voted for names and sandy won. The snake is black and brown, it eats worms and drinks water. "It wasn't hard," said Oliver who caught the snake on the steps outside our classroom. James was the one who found it. "Mom, that's not a worm that's a snake!" he said. Sandy is around 23 cm long and almost 1 cm wide. "At first it looked like a big worm" he said, "but then I saw its tongue flicker and worms don't have tongues."

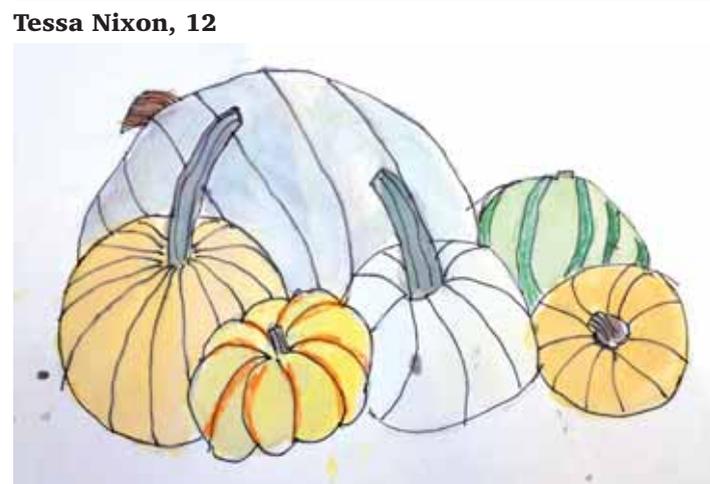
People really like the snake. "I like how they can grow big," said Mason "I'm glad that we have a snake." said Jake
SEE AQUINAS, PAGE 28



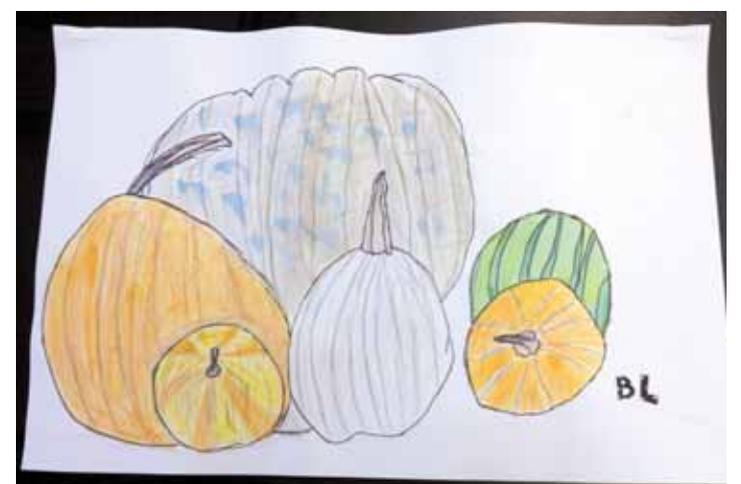
Tessa Nixon, 12



Emma Richards, 11



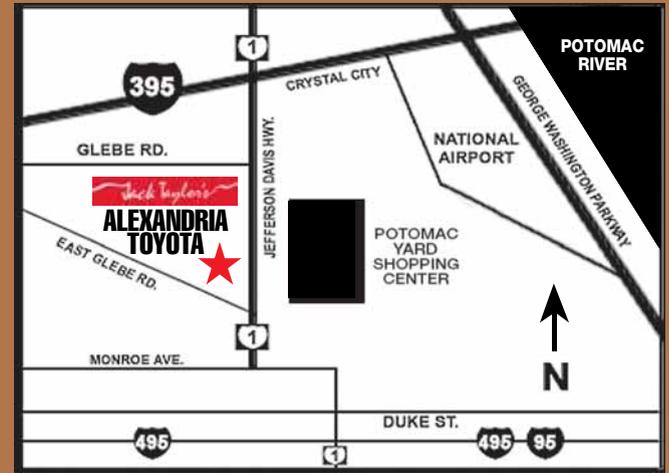
Ana Jones, 11



Brooke Lawson, 11

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FROM PAGE 26

"I like seeing it put its head in the rock," said Langston

"I like how it lifts its head really high." Said Max

— DAVIS JONES, 8, GRADE 3 & MAX MATTHEWS, 7, GRADE 2

The Christmas Miracle

Once upon a time there was a boy named Max. He believed in Santa. On Christmas he saw no presents so he went to his friend's house. He asked him, "Is Santa real?" "No" he said, "But I put out cookies and milk for him anyway. My parents give me my presents." "So Santa is not real?" asked Max. Then the miracle happened.

"Wait! I hear something! Is that who I think it is?" They heard jingling and it was snowy and foggy and windy, and then sunny! Then Santa appeared from thin air! First they saw his red cherry cheeks, then his red and white suit with the same color hat. "Ho ho ho and a Merry Christmas!"

"So you are real!" exclaimed Max, "Then how come you did not bring me anything?" "Because you did not send me a wish list, silly" said Santa. Then they looked up to the sky. They saw his sled, and his reindeer with all of the kids' toys. "But you have all of those toys and it is after Christmas!" said Max. "Of course" said Santa, "it's the Christmas miracle!"

— LANGSTON WILLIAMS, 8, GRADE 3



Greta Hare, 9, grade 3

The Best Class

It's a good class, very good. We have PE on Tuesday and we do cleaning and class meeting on Fridays. We go on a lot of field trips – sometimes we have our own concerts. We keep a lot of animals: we have a mouse and snake and we released a lot of butterflies. We have also done homeless walks. First we design our own shirts then we walk. This is a good school with good people, really good, and really good teachers. This is the best school. When it rains outside we have indoor recess. And when it is sunny and not raining we have outdoor recess. We also have a lot of nice work to do, we have books, math sheets, and more. And we give our plants the best

refreshing water. We have grammar boxes, music cards, chains, holey cards, flash cards, phonograms and even more. About the students, there are the best students with the best class. Every student has their own talent. Jake is good at math. James is good at tae kwon do, Langston is good at running, Bryden is good at multiplication.

It is the best class.
We have homework on Wednesdays.
We have lots of plants.
We have good books.
We have good math facts.
We have good maps.
We have good work.
We have a good globe.
We have a good school.
We have a clean classroom.



"Dragon" by Mason Pellegrino, 6, grade 1

We have a grammar box.
We have a counting chain.

— BRYDEN DUKULY, 8, GRADE 3 & JAKE LI, 8, GRADE 3

Our School Helps United Community Ministries

Our class does a lot of drives for UCM. Last year our class did a book drive, a baby clothes drive, a toiletry drive, and a food drive. So far this year we have toy drive and a clothing drive. We are col-



"Papagena" by Casalina Wilson, age 8, grade 2

lecting hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and coats. So far we have two boxes full of clothes and one box full of toys. Every year we also do a homeless walk. We bring in t-shirts and decorate them with fabric markers. Then we walk around the school or we walk around the track at the high school. The toy drive will end December 15, 2014 and the winter clothing drive will end December 11, 2014. Then we will drop them off at UCM for the people who are there to wear this winter. UCM lets people come in and get clothes and toys for their kids for Christmas presents.

— AMANDA NOLAN, 8, GRADE 3 & CASALINA WILSON, 8, GRADE 2

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